

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 03231 111639Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 111453Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 886
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T CAIRO 3231

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG UR
SUBJECT: SADAT-BREZHNEV EXCHANGE

1. PRESIDENT SADAT TOLD ME TODAY HE HAD JUST RECEIVED
A MESSAGE FROM BREZHNEV. THE MESSAGE WAS INREPLY TO A
LETTER WHICH SADAT HAD SENT SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER AGAIN
ASKING THE SOVIETS TO HONOR THEIR "COMMITMENT" TO REPLACE
EQUIPMENT LOST IN THE OCTOBER, 1973 WAR AND TO AGREE
TO DEBT RESCHEDULING.

2. SOVIETS, SADAT NOTED, NORMALLY DO NOT REPLY TO
EGYPTIAN MESSAGES FOR FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS. THIS TIME,
HOWEVER, BREZHNEV'S REPLY WAS SENT IN FOUR DAYS.
IT "PUT ON PAPER" WHAT SADAT HAD EARLIER TOLD US IS THE
SOVIET OBJECTIVE, I.E. TO BRING HIM DOWN. SOVIET LEADER
HAD REFUSED ANY FURTHER MILITARY OR ECONOMIC HELP.
BREZHNEV HAD NOTED THAT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM THE POLITICAL SITUATION.
EGYPT IS TAKING ITSELF OUT OF THE SOCIALIST CAMP,
HENCE THERE IS NOT BASIS FOR CONTINUED SOVIET
ASSISTANCE.

3. SADAT NOTED SOVIETS HAVE DECIDED TO GO ALL OUT
TO GET HIM. THEY ARE SEEKING TO CAPITALIZE ON
EGYPT'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND PREDICTING THERE
WILL BE SERIOUS UNREST ON PART OF WORKERS AND MILITARY

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IN THREE MONTHS AT THE MOST. IN SECRET MEETING WHICH

BOUMEDIENNE AND JALLUD HAD WITH BREZHNEV IN LATE FEBRUARY, BREZHNEV HAD PREDICTED SADAT REGIME WILL COLLAPSE THIS SUMMER. HE HAD INDICATED, MOREOVER, THAT SOVIETS WILL DO UTMOST TO FOMENT UNREST IN EGYPT. JALLUD HAD PASSED THIS ON TO AL-HONI, WHO IN TURN TOLD EGYPTIANS.

4. POINTING TO PRIMIN MAMDUH SALEM, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING, SADAT SAID EGYPTIAN SECURITY AUTHORITIES ARE GETTING INCREASING REPORTS OF SOVIET SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS TO CREATE UNREST. HOWEVER, GOE IS ALERT TO SUCH SOVIET EFFORTS AND SADAT WAS CONFIDENT THEY WOULD FALL.
EILTS

SECRET

NNN

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